

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 IO-11 ARA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3286

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMAKO 0592

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ML, EAID

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH FOREIGN OFFICE ON USAID POLICIES

REF: BAMAKO 0586

1. DURING MY CALL ON SEYDOU TRAORE, SEC GEN OF THE FONOFF, ON ANOTHER SUBJECT(REFTEL), I SAID THAT I HAD HEARD SOME COMMENTS IN BAMAKO TO THE EFFECT THAT THE DELAY IN THE APPROVAL OF CERTAIN AID PROJECTS IN MALI WAS THE RESULT OF RETALIATION AGAINST MALI FOR ITS VOTING PATTERN IN THE U.N. I WISHED TO CLARIFY OUR POSITION ON THIS SUBJECT. AS HE, TRAORE, WAS AWARE, WE HAD TERMINATED OUR PROGRAM OF FOREIGN MILITARY SALES FROM MALI. APART FROM THAT, HOWEVER, THERE HAD BEEN NO ACTIONS TAKEN AGAINST MALI AND ANY DELAYS THAT MIGHT BE OCCURRING WERE SIMPLY THE RESULT OF THOROUGH STUDY OF THE PROJECTS BEFORE APPROVAL. I WENT ON TO SAY, HOWEVER, THAT GOM MUST TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE FACT THAT OUR RESOURCES FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WERE, IN FACT, NOT LIMITLESS, AND THAT WHEN THE ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES WAS UNDERTAKEN, QUITE NATURALLY WE WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE BROAD RANGE OF OUR RELATIONS WITH RECIPIENT COUNTRIES.

2. TRAORE THANKED ME FOR THIS EXPLANATION; SAID THAT IT WAS QUITE TRUE THAT THERE WAS CONCERN IN THE GOVERNMENT

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OVER THE DELAYS IN APPROVALS OF CERTAIN PROGRAMS, BECAUSE

WE HAD DEMONSTRATED DURING THE DROUGHT THAT WE COULD RESPOND VERY QUICKLY WHEN THE NEED AROSE AND MALIAN OFFICIALS HAD FOUND IT HARD TO ACCEPT THE FACT THAT THE PRESENT DELAYS WERE THE RESULT OF ONLY RED TAPE. HE FOUND IT QUITE NORMAL THAT OUR ALLOCATION OF AID RESOURCES WOULD BE AFFECTED BY OUR OVERALL RELATIONS WITH ANY COUNTRY.

3. DURING THE COURSE OF THIS CONVERSATION, TRAORE SAID THAT THEY GREATLY APPRECIATED ALL OF THE MATERIAL THAT WE HAD BEEN GIVING THEM ON PUERTO RICO, THAT THEY WERE STUDYING IT, AND SHORTLY HE WOULD CALL ME IN TO GO OVER CERTAIN SPECIFIC POINTS AND QUESTIONS THAT HAVE ARISEN DURING THEIR STUDY OF THIS QUESTION.
MCGUIRE

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